



HEALTH AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

OCT 3

MEMORANDUM FOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ARMED FORCES
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BOARD

SUBJECT: QuantiFERON[®]-TB's application in the U.S. Military

The Armed Forces Epidemiological Board (AFEB) was asked in February 2000 to make recommendations concerning risk-based tuberculosis screening policies and new technologies. The Board's recommendations were submitted in May 2000 and included an assessment of the whole blood assay, QuantiFERON[®]-TB, as a substitute for current skin testing policies. With Food and Drug Administration approval in November 2002 of the whole blood assay, the Joint Preventive Medicine Policy Group (JPMPG) has been asked to evaluate QuantiFERON[®]-TB's application in the U.S. Military.

In this regard, I would like the AFEB to review and provide comment on the report and additional research submitted to the JPMPG by Cellestis Incorporated, addressing the questions raised by the AFEB in the May 2000 recommendation. I further request the Board provide recommendations on QuantiFERON[®]-TB's application in the U.S. Military.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ellen P. Embrey", is positioned above the printed name.

Ellen P. Embrey

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Force Health Protection and Readiness)

Attachments
As Stated